

9A COMMUNICATIVE Animal quiz

Student A

- a** Ask **B** the questions. Then confirm if he / she has the right answer and explain the answers to them.

- 1 Which of the following encourages cows to produce more milk?

a listening to classical music
b listening to people talking
c listening to pop music

answer: a Research has shown that classical music reduces a cow's stress levels in the same way as it does in humans. Favourites are Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony and Haydn's Symphony no.7.

- 2 How many hearts does an octopus have?

a 1
b 2
c 3

answer: c They need three hearts to pump blood to their eight limbs.

- 3 Which of these animals cannot jump?

a an elephant
b a goat
c a hamster

answer: a Although elephants have the same number of bones in their feet as other mammals, those bones are very close together. This means that they don't have the flexibility to enable them to jump.

- 4 Which creature did the Americans try to train to drop bombs in the Second World War?

a eagles
b chimpanzees
c bats

answer: c The plan was to release 'bat bombs' over major Japanese cities. Bats were an ideal choice to carry the 28-gram incendiary bombs because they can carry more than their own weight in flight.

- 5 In which direction can a pig not look?

a to the left
b to the right
c upwards

answer: c A pig's spine limits its movement and doesn't let it look up to the sky. In spite of this, pigs have a very good sense of direction!

- 6 Which of these animals kills most people in Africa per year?

a tigers
b hippos
c lions

answer: b Although you might think hippos are docile, watch out! They are considered the most dangerous animal in Africa. 3,000 people were killed by them in 2013 compared to 70 by lions. There are no tigers in Africa.

- 7 How long can most sharks live without eating?

a up to six weeks
b up to one week
c up to 72 hours

answer: a They can survive on the oil that's stored in their livers for six weeks. When the oil gets low, they have the instinct to hunt again.

- 8 How many eyes does a dolphin close when it sleeps?

a neither of them
b one of them
c both of them

answer: b Its left eye closes when the right part of its brain sleeps and vice versa. During this time, the other half of the brain monitors what's going on in the environment and controls breathing functions.

- 9 What do butterflies taste with?

a their feet
b their wings
c their antennae

answer: a They have tiny, hair-like sensors on their feet. By standing on a leaf, a female can 'taste' and see if it's good to lay eggs on.

- 10 Which European city is said to have more dogs than children?

a Stockholm
b London
c Paris

answer: c France has one of the highest people / dog ratios in the world with 17 dogs to every 100 people. The country has an unofficial dog population of 10 million with over 500,000 dogs living in Paris.



- b** Now answer **B**'s questions. Who knows more about animals?

9A COMMUNICATIVE Animal quiz

Student B

- a** Answer A's questions.
- b** Ask A the questions. Then confirm if he / she has the right answer and explain the answers to them. Who knows more about animals?

1 How intelligent are dogs?

- a** as intelligent as a 2–3-year-old child
- b** as intelligent as a 4–5-year-old child
- c** as intelligent as a 6–7-year-old child

answer: a Research has shown that dogs can understand about 165–200 words, signs, or signals – about the same as a 2.5-year-old child.

2 Which animal produces mohair?

- a** a rabbit
- b** a goat
- c** a sheep

answer: b Mohair is made from the hair of the angora goat, which is farmed mainly in South Africa, the USA, and Turkey.

3 In ancient Rome which animal was a symbol of liberty?

- a** the cat
- b** the wolf
- c** the eagle

answer: a In ancient Rome, cats were a symbol of liberty. In ancient Egypt, they were sacred animals, and whoever killed a cat (even accidentally) was executed.



4 Which animal can't taste sweet things?

- a** a dog
- b** a bear
- c** a cat

answer: c A human has 9,000 taste buds whereas a cat only has 470, and their sweet buds are not very reactive, so, unlike humans, they will not be tempted by chocolate or cake!

5 What do male (but not female) elephants do at the age of 13?

- a** go back to the place where they were born
- b** leave their herd forever to live alone
- c** become the leader of the herd



answer: b Although female elephants spend all their lives living with their herd, once a male reaches about the age of 13, he will leave the rest of the herd, and will live a solitary life from then on.

6 Which of these animals have 'friends'?

- a** gorillas
- b** chickens
- c** cows

answer: c Cows are incredibly sociable animals. Research shows that their stress levels go down when they are put with a 'friend' in comparison to when they are alone or paired with a random cow.

7 On average, how long does a housefly live for?

- a** 15 minutes
- b** 15 hours
- c** 15 days

answer: c Houseflies live for 15 days, and are only active during the daytime. They are capable of carrying over 100 diseases such as cholera and TB.



8 What colour of clothing will make a mosquito more likely to bite you?

- a** pale yellow
- b** dark blue
- c** red

answer: b You're twice as likely to be bitten if you're wearing dark blue because dark colours trap carbon dioxide, which is what attracts a mosquito to you in the first place. Yellow is the best colour to wear as it's a colour they can hardly see and they get confused by it.

9 Which creature would survive the shortest time if it were sent into space?

- a** a bird
- b** a tortoise
- c** a rabbit

answer: a It would soon die because a bird actually needs gravity in order to be able to swallow.

10 Which of these creatures doesn't sleep?

- a** ants
- b** crabs
- c** bees

answer: b Crabs 'relax' as opposed to sleep. However, if they detect light or movement, they get active again very quickly.

